

COMMENTS AGAINST  
PETITION RM-8626

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TO: Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FROM: Charles W. Cotterman KA8QQF  
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15 April 1995

To The Commission:

In regard to Petition for Rulemaking RM-8626, submitted by one Frederick O. Mais, W5YI, I wish to officially state my opposition to the proposal.

Since the institution of the Amateur Service, the tradition of self-training and education has been one of its hallmarks. In addition, it has been a requirement that amateurs be cognizant of the rules regarding the service. While study materials have been available from countless sources over the years, one of the best sources of training (specifically, Morse Code practice) and information has been the one-way transmissions from many sources, not the least of which is the American Radio Relay League club station W1AW. The Commission's own rules have made it very clear both the circumstances under which one-way transmissions may take place, and the content of the transmissions themselves.

The transmissions in question have a wide audience, indeed one which stretches beyond the limits of the US. The code practice sessions are able to be monitored in many nations, thereby promoting proficiency in Morse code around the world. Comments to the Commission on recent actions concerning Morse Code requirements have supported the Commission's view that the code is and should remain an integral part of the Amateur Radio Service. International agreements concerning Amateur Radio reflect this view, and code transmissions from one nation that serve to increase the code proficiency of amateurs of another (as an incidental benefit) cannot be viewed as anything but beneficial to the international amateur service as a whole. In addition, the transmissions concerning legislative and regulatory items not only serve to keep American amateurs current in the rules, but can serve as examples of problem-solving and inspiration for cooperation among Amateur Radio legislative bodies around the world.

In a more personal sense, the transmissions concerning "information of interest to the Amateur Service" serves a social purpose on many levels. On an international level, the DX bulletins and announcements of upcoming conferences and conventions serve to keep amateurs informed of both the challenges of the hobby and the basic premise of radio communications, which is that of people talking (in their mode of choice) to other people. I can claim to have a personal interest in these transmissions, not only as a regular listener but as a reporter for a non-profit amateur radio news service headquartered out of Mason OH and currently played at least 30 times weekly over various systems and heard in at least six states and portions of Canada.

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Mr. Maias' proposal to eliminate these transmissions will cause grave damage to the amateur service. What used to be freely available to anyone with the simplest of receivers will now only be accessible to those who have spent large amounts of money on computer equipment and software, and then only from a commercial (for-profit) service. It seems to me that Mr. Maias' interest in silencing these transmissions may be financial in nature. His proposal would silence the medium by which countless people around the world have been inspired to join the International Amateur Radio Service.

Part of the reasons for the existence of the Amateur Radio Service can be found in the words of the Communications Act of 1934, notably those which promote the dissemination of information to amateurs for the purposes of education and enlightenment ON A NON-COMMERCIAL BASIS. Having to acquire this information ONLY FROM A COMMERCIAL SOURCE seems to be an idea at cross purposes to the spirit of amateur radio itself.

I urge you to reject RM-8626 when it comes before you for official action.

Yours,

*Charles W. Cotterman KA8QQF*

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